

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03986 012328Z

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ALL AMCONSULS CANADA

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TAGS: OGEN, CA

SUBJECT: MEL HURTIG RE: AMBASSADOR ENDERS

REF: A. OTTAWA 3939, B. OTTAWA 3914

1. ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 29TH, AFTER THE EMBASSY HAD ISSUED ITS CLARIFYING FACT STATEMENT, GLOBAL - AN ONTARIO WIDE NETWORK - CARRIED AN OTTAWA BASED REPORT ON BOTH ITS 6 AND 10 P.M. NEWSCASTS, THE THRUST OF WHICH WAS THAT WHILE IT MAY HAVE BEEN UNFORTUNATE THAT HURTIG CALLED THE AMBASSADOR A LIAR, IT WAS ABOUT TIME THAT CANADIANS AGAIN FOCUSED ON THE QUESTION OF THEIR OWN NATIONAL ECONOMIC IDENTITY. BOTH THE CBC AND THE CTV NATIONAL TELEVISION NEWSCAST THAT SAME EVENING IGNORED THE STORY COMPLETELY AND CBC NATIONAL RADIO DID NOT FOLLOW IT UP EITHER THAT EVENING OR THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

2. WRITING IN THE TORONTO STAR AND OTHER PAPERS ON SEPTEMBER 30, NATIONAL POLITICAL COLUMNIST RICHARD GWYNN DEVOTED HIS COLUMN TO A DISCUSSION OF MEL HURTIG. THE COLUMN WAS GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TOWARD HURTIG AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND EXTOLLED HIS PERFORMANCE AS A POLITICAL PERFORMER. GWYNN COMMENTED "PROBABLY HURTIG WENT A STEP OVER THE LINE TUESDAY NIGHT IN CALLING THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CANADA A LIAR. THE DISPUTE BETWEEN HURTIG AND ENDERS IS OVER WORDS; U.S. DIRECT INVESTMENT IN CANADA IS DOWN AS ENDERS CLAIMS, BUT TOTAL U.S.

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03986 012328Z

CAPITAL FLOWS ARE UP AS HURTIG STATED. THOSE TERMS CAN BE ARGUED

TO MEAN ALMOST ANYTHING THAT ANYONE WANTS THEM TO MEAN. YET HURTIG DID HAVE THE COURAGE TO CHALLENGE ENDERS AS NO OTHER PUBLIC PERSONALITY HAS DONE. HE ALSO HAS THE COURAGE TO REACH OUT FOR FRESH POLITICAL IDEAS IN A WAY THAT ALMOST NO ONE ELSE IS DOING THESE DAYS." ON THE SAME DAY JOHN GRAY, OTTAWA POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR THE OTTAWA CITIZEN, WROTE A LONG INSIDE PAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED "GOLIATH (ENDERS) FINALLY THROWS STONE BACK AT DAVID (HURTIG)". THRUST OF THE GRAY COLUMN WAS THAT MR. HURTIG IS A TIRELESS CHAMPION OF AN INDEPENDENT CANADA AND MR. ENDERS IS THE TOUGH AND ALOOF DEFENDER OF AMERICAN INTERESTS IN CANADA. GRAY SAID THAT HURTIG LAUGHED OUT LOUD WHEN HE DISCOVERED THE EMBASSY HAD BESTIRED ITSELF "TO ATTACK HIM FOR ATTACKING THOMAS ENDERS". FOR TWO DAYS IN OTTAWA HE HAD BEEN SAYING THAT MR. ENDERS WAS LIKE A CONDESCENDING COLONIAL RULER, THAT HE WAS MISLEADING CANADIANS, THAT HE WAS, IN FACT, A DOWNRIGHT LIAR. GRAY THEN WENT INTO A SEMANTIC DISCUSSION BETWEEN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN CANADA AND U.S. MONEY COMING INTO CANADA THROUGH CANADIAN BORROWING IN THE STATES. GRAY SUGGESTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN LESS CLEAR IN HIS STATEMENTS AS TO WHETHER HE WAS REFERRING TO DIRECT INVESTMENT OR ALL U.S. MONEY FLOWS INTO CANADA. GRAY NOTED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD MADE NO ATTEMPT TO COMMENT ON THE OTHER THINGS HURTIG HAD BEEN SAYING AND HE SAID THE EMBASSY DID NOT SUFFICIENTLY DOCUMENT ENDERS REFERENCE ONLY TO DIRECT INVESTMENT. IN FACT THE EMBASSY SENT MATERIAL FROM THE AMBASSADOR'S SPEECHES DIRECT TO GRAY POINTING OUT TO HIM THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD REFERRED IN EVERY INSTANCE ONLY TO DIRECT INVESTMENT IN CANADA. MR. GRAY, IT SEEMS, CHOSE TO IGNORE THIS REPRESENTATION. ON THE SAME DAY THE CITIZEN RAN A SHORT EDITORIAL WHICH, WHILE REGRETTING HURTIG HAD CALLED THE U.S. AMBASSADOR A LIAR, SUPPORTED CANADA'S NEED TO REASSERT A FORM OF ECONOMIC NATIONALISM.

3. THESE FEW INSTANCES OF SUPPORT FOR HURTIG ASIDE, HIS PERSONAL ATTACK ON THE AMBASSADOR EVOKED CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM. THE OTTAWA JOURNAL IN A EDITORIAL ENTITLED "A SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT" SAID "THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CANADA, THOMAS O. ENDERS, IS WELL ABLE TO DEFEND THE ACCURACY OF HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, AS IN FACT HAS BEEN ALREADY DONE IN THE COOL RESPONSE TO THE INTEMPERATE ATTACK BY MEL HURTIG IN HIS SPEECH TUESDAY NIGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 03986 012328Z

IN OTTAWA.

"THE MORE PERTINENT QUESTION IS WHO IS GOING TO DEFEND THE COMMITTEE FOR AN INDEPENDENT CANADA FROM MR. HURTIG...

"BUT WHO NOW WANTS TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE CRUDENESS IN LANGUAGE AND IN ARGUMENT OF MR. HURTIG'S PERSONAL ATTACK ON MR. ENDERS?

"THE SMALL ATTENDANCE AT AND LACK OF INTEREST IN THE CIC'S RECENT ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVA SCOTIA WAS A SIGN THAT THE ORGANIZATION IS IN

DANGER OF WITHERING AWAY. MR. HURTIG'S SPEECH, WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A DESPERATE LAST EFFORT TO RALLY THE ECONOMIC NATIONALIST TROOPS, MAY IN FACT BE THE LAST GASP. TO PUT IT MOST CHARITABLY, MR. HURTIG'S OTTAWA SPEECH AND INTERVIEWS ARE PROFOUND EMBARRASSEMENTS. THEY MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR INTELLIGENT PERSONS TO ADMIT OF ANY ECONOMIC NATIONALISM. "TO CALL A MAN OF MR. ENDERS' INTEGRITY A 'DOWNRIGHT LIAR', AS MR. HURTIG DID, ONLY DAMAGES THE REPUTATION OF THE MAN USING SUCH LANGUAGE AND THE CAUSE HE ADVOCATES... THE LEAST MR. HURTIG CAN DO FOR THE CAUSE HE ADVOCATES AND FOR HIS OWN REPUTATION IS TO APOLOGIZE FOR AN UNCHARACTERISTIC LAPSE OF MANNERS AND JUDGMENT."

4. THE TORONTO STAR, AN ADVOWEDLY NATIONALISTIC NEWSPAPER, AT LEAST FROM AN ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE, UNDER AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE NATIONALIST VS. THE AMBASSADOR" SAID "THE AMBASSADOR HAS REFERRED TO DECLINING U.S. INVESTMENT IN CANADA SEVERAL TIMES, ALWAYS SPECIFYING THAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT NEW DIRECT INVESTMENT- IN OTHER WORDS, NEW U.S.-OWNED COMPANIES BEING ESTABLISHED HERE, OR EXISTING ONES BEING EXPANDED BY CAPITAL INFUSIONS FROM THE PARENT FIRMS.

"AND THE FACT IS THAT THOSE KINDS OF U.S. INVESTMENTS HERE HAVE BEEN DECLINING. IN 1974, THEY REPRESENTED \$615 MILLION, AND LAST YEAR \$535 MILLION. IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, U.S. INVESTORS TOOK OUT \$43 MILLION MORE THAN THEY PUT IN." THE STAR THEN WENT ON TO QUOTE A PARAGRAPH FROM ENDERS' APRIL SPEECH IN TORONTO ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. "THE STAR STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT FOREIGN OWNERSHIP MUST BE RESTRICTED, AND CANADIAN OWNERSHIP EXPANDED, TO ASSURE CANADIAN CONTROL OF OUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FUTURE. AMBASSADOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 OTTAWA 03986 012328Z

ENDERS SPEECHES TEND TO ARGUE THE CONTRARY, BUT THAT ISN'T SUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR CALLING HIM A LIAR."

5. WHILE THE GLOBAL TELEVISION NEWS REPORTERS PLAYED THE HURTIG EPISODE IN A SOMEWHAT SARCASTIC VEIN, IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE SAME NEWS PROGRAM THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS EDITOR INTERVIEWED A PRIVATE ECONOMIST WHO STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE AMBASSADOR'S POSITION AND PRODUCED INDEPENDENT FIGURES TO SHOW THAT MR. HURTIG DID NOT KNOW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

6. COMMENT: HURTIG'S ATTACKS ON AMBASSADOR ENDERS SEEM SO FAR TO HAVE GENERATED A SMALL AUDIENCE IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA. A FEW PAPERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE NOTING THE STORY IN THE FORM OF CANADIAN PRESS WIRE SERVICE COVERAGE. CANADIANS OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL PERSUASIONS HAVE GONE OUT OF

THEIR WAY IN OTTAWA TO LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THEY DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM HURTIG'S ATTACK, WHICH THEY VIEW AS EXCESSIVE AND UNFOUNDED. THE GLOBAL TELEVISION COMMENTATOR, IN FACT, WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO SAY THAT WHILE HE IS NO SUPPORTER OF U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN CANADA, "I THINK THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE CRITICIZED AN ECONOMIC NATIONALIST IN PUBLIC". HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WOULD LIKE HURTIG AND OTHERS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE NEW ECONOMIC DATA PRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR ENDERS RATHER THAN LAMBASTING THE U.S. AMBASSADOR FOR DISCUSSING IT. "IN FACT, AMBASSADOR ENDERS HAS BEEN HELPING US TO GET RID OF THE OLD MYTHOLOGIES ABOUT CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND TO LOOK CLEARLY AT WHAT ACTUALLY IS TAKING PLACE. I'M GLAD HE'S DOING THAT BECAUSE I FEEL IT CAN'T HELP BUT BENEFIT BOTH COUNTRIES IN THE LONG RUN."

A COLUMNIST FOR A NATIONAL NEWS PUBLICATION SAID HE THOUGHT THE EMBASSY RESPONSE WAS RIGHT ON TARGET AND THAT INDEED MR. ENDERS WAS GARNERING A LOT OF PUBLIC SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT.
ENDERS

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